

2023

Annual Report



We are SUPER Citizens!

50,075

**2022-2023
Graduates**

390

**Participating
Schools**

“One of my top concerns (and desires) is ensuring we graduate students with genuine knowledge about our republic and an abiding interest in our Constitution. I dream of all our young people knowing and respecting the history of those who’ve preserved this love of our country and its People. Historical and governmental literacy we must foster in those who appear disinterested and in all who are ignorant. Public Service needs to return to being about “the people” and not power or the dollar. Our democracy is at extreme risk of being such in name only. Thank you for all you do to preserve our republic.”



**- Bob O'Neil, School Board
Member for Pelham City Schools**



Investing in our Future Citizens

AlaTrade Foods, Inc. - Phenix City provided "In Search of Super Citizens" books to all 2nd grade students in Phenix City Schools

Since our inception in 2010, the Liberty Learning Foundation's vision was to provide civic education resources for students at each stage of their development. This has been made possible through our community alliances and statewide donors. These businesses and community leaders not only support our mission financially but also serve as mentors to the future citizens in this state. Students are able to achieve a level of personal connection with community mentors and volunteers through projects and events.

To support our **Hands on Liberty** and **Super Citizen** students in their literacy journey, local businesses donated "In Search of Super Citizens" books. For some of our students, this book established the beginning of a home library.

During this past school year, **21** middle schools that participated in the **American Character Program** completed **493** service-learning projects. 7th-grade students formed groups to recognize and solve issues through creative solutions in their school and community. They also practiced valuable **essential skills** such as **team work, problem-solving, and adaptability**. At the conclusion of their program they were able to demonstrate other skills such as **properly shaking hands and having good eye contact** with guests at their **#GoodCharacter EXPO**.

The **2,437** high school students who participated in the **Citizen Promise Program (pilot)** had events and activities that helped to prepare them to become **Life, Career, and Citizen Ready**. Community leaders shared their experiences and knowledge on **workforce essential skills, financial literacy, interviewing, resumes** and the importance of being a **good digital citizen**.

Thank you for helping us make our vision a reality. Your support helps us continue building the foundation we know is necessary for productive, civic-minded leaders who possess good character.



(Left) Paul Kennedy with Walker Area Community Foundation learns all about what Lupton 7th graders are doing for their community!

(Right) Mercedes-Benz of Dothan demonstrates to seniors at Dothan High School how to check their oil and check fluids during "Adulting Day".

A Super STUDENT Making the World a Better Place



Characteristics like thoughtfulness, empathy, service, honesty, compassion and loyalty are just a few traits that exemplify the heroes that our students choose to honor at their Celebrations signifying the completion of their program. One 5th grade classroom at Pinecrest Elementary honored Sam, a 4th grade classmate as a Torch Team Hero. Sam started a non-profit organization - **Sam's Animal Rescue Art** where she sells portraits of animals. This young **entrepreneur** uses the proceeds to purchase food, blankets and toys for a local animal shelter. She is making the world a better place for our furry friends!

Spotlight on Schools Who Are Making a Difference: iAcademy at Athens Elementary



"At Athens Elementary, we are big on PBL (Project Based Learning). We allow the students to have a voice of choice in their learning and integrate special areas into the lessons as well. This year we decided to use our Immigration Unit with Core Knowledge and the material from the **Hands on Liberty Program** to get a deeper understanding. At the end of the unit, the students participated in a strategy called Philosophical Chairs to debate using their knowledge from the unit. We gave the students a scenario about a person needing to choose to immigrate or stay in their home land. The students used their knowledge from both **Core Knowledge and Hands on Liberty** to form their opinion. They wrote or typed it into a paragraph to use as notes to support their opinion. We also paired up with our art teacher, and she helped us make a "Mosaic of Citizens" because we have a lesson in our Core Knowledge materials called a "Mosaic of Immigrants". In art, the student used red, blue, or regular pencils to draw a self portrait. They then placed all of the portraits on a poster and made a mosaic of the American flag to display for parents on our PBL Open House Night."

- **Tiffinee Haney - 2nd grade teacher, iAcademy at Athens Elementary School**



Mosaic of Citizens



Our 2nd grade friends at Athens Elementary School

From Our Teachers, Administrators, & Community Leaders



"The students really enjoyed the program. The lessons and materials provided by Liberty Learning were age-appropriate and very informative for the 2nd graders. The Kick-Off and Celebration events were highly anticipated by students and staff. Our chosen "Helping Hands Hero" visited our classroom often and shared the importance of being civic-minded. Our teachers look forward to this program every year and would greatly appreciate the funding/continued support of local sponsors! Thank you!"

- Mary Ann Stanley
Albertville Primary School



"The American Character Program creates more critical thinking that students need. The most impressive thing that stands out to me is the interaction with adults at the Expo. Students have to communicate well and shake hands the way you should shake someone's hand when you greet them. I look forward to the future in partnering with Liberty Learning Foundation."

- Ryan Smith
Hokes Bluff Middle School



"The American Character Program is my favorite project of the year. My students have greatly benefited from the lessons and guidance of the Liberty Learning Foundation."

- Grant Beal
Cullman Middle School



"Liberty Learning Foundation is bringing a generation back to the basics of the Red White and Blue and the meaning of what being an American means! From 2nd grade, 5th grade, 7th grade and through high school....

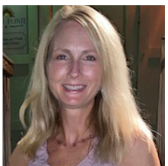
Every school should have this curriculum available for their students!"

- Senator Garlan Gudger



"This program not only helps my students understand what makes a person a super citizen, it also gives them a voice to speak on their behalf. They know that they made a difference."

- Jacqueline Means
Carver Elementary and Arts Magnet School



"Students get so excited about the Torch Hero project once they realize what it is all about. Finding a citizen in our community, presenting their introduction essay, voting on our Torch Team Hero as well as meeting this person has become an exciting part of the program each year. As a teacher, I show my enthusiasm for the program each step of the way, and the kids reflect the same enthusiasm. They absolutely love singing the song, "You in the USA!"

- Tisha Hurst
Highlands Elementary School



"I had the pleasure of attending my granddaughter's celebration and was blown away by the energy of this program. The lessons that these students are learning builds the foundation for civic engagement in the future. I support the Liberty Learning Foundation's mission to teach, inspire and empower our next generation of Americans."

- State Representative Kelvin Lawrence



"Civics education is so important for young people. Liberty Learning is an excellent program that teaches students to be good citizens, give back to their communities, take pride in our great country, and express gratitude to true local heroes. We need this type of education today more than ever, and that makes us proud to support Liberty Learning and the organization's mission."

- Jimmy Parnell, Alfa Insurance and Alabama Farmers Federation President

Read years of quotes from mission stakeholders at LibertyLearning.org/testimonials



2023 Winners of the Citizen Promise Grants at Dothan High School

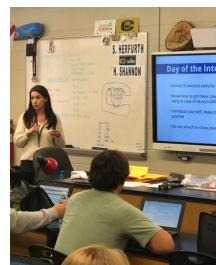
Citizen Promise Program - Pilot (High School)

The Citizen Promise Program provides events and opportunities that prepare students to be **Life, Career, and Citizen Ready** after graduation. Our goal is to meet these students where they are on their journey and help them to achieve their goals once they graduate from high school whether that is in the workforce, military, technical school, or college.

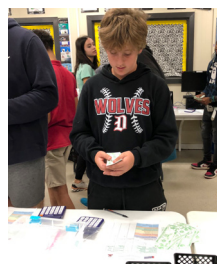
Seniors at Dothan High School had an opportunity to learn about life after high school during the annual **"Adulting Day"**. Community volunteers and mentors were on hand to answer questions and provide information that will be helpful as they begin a new chapter in their lives after graduation.



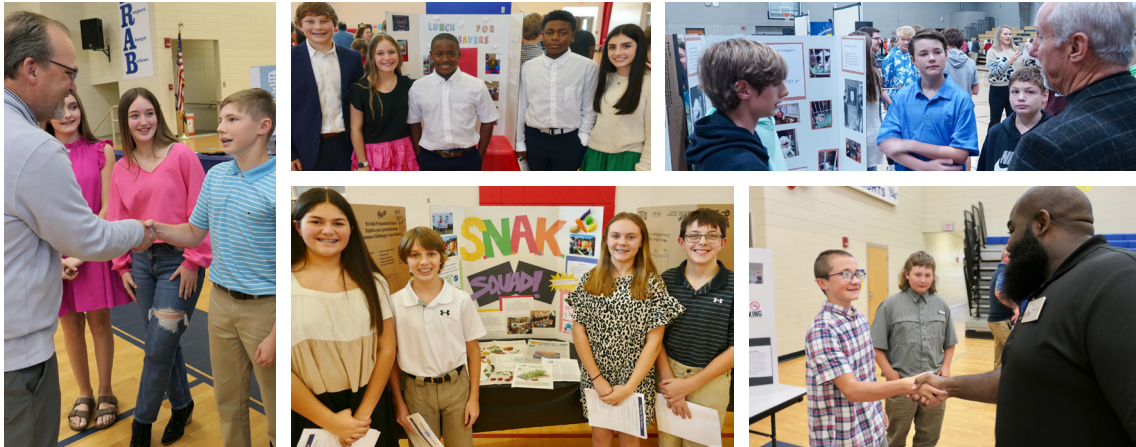
During the fall and spring, 9th grade students spent two days in a **Financial Literacy - Reality Check**. This simulation gave each student a job and a gross annual salary. Students paid taxes, learned about credit scores and budgeted their monthly net income on essential needs and life choices. They also had an opportunity to select a "what if" - these consisted of different scenarios such as having to purchase a new tire, paying a student loan payment or if they were lucky, receiving a birthday check in the mail!



Community volunteers and mentors provided their expertise on topics such as **financial literacy**, the importance of being a **good digital citizen** and **essential skills needed to be successful in the workforce**.



American Character Program Service in Action (Grades 6-8)



The American Character program focuses on ten pivotal historical figures who were servant leaders in our country. Through these lessons students learn **civic responsibility, character building, financial literacy, career development, community engagement and our great American story.**

During the program, students form teams to identify a need in their community and work to solve this issue or problem together. At the culmination of their program, they share their **service learning projects** with their mentors and individuals in the community at their #GoodCharacter EXPO.

Hands on Liberty Program (Grades K-2) and Super Citizen Program (Grades 3-5)



The Hands on Liberty Program and Super Citizen Program are civic education resources that promote character, financial literacy, career exploration and our great American story. Students are involved in a project based learning activity where they form Helping Hands Teams or Torch Teams to nominate, vote on and honor their heroes. At their Celebration the students graduate from the program, take a Super Citizen Pledge and recognize heroes in their community that have exemplified what it means to be a Good Citizen.



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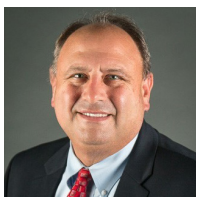
Jaclyn Brown Wright



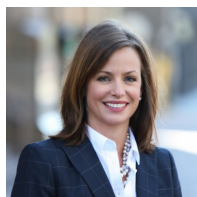
Dr. Melissa Shields



Lisa Morales



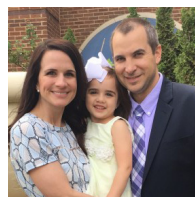
Kevin J. Wieseman



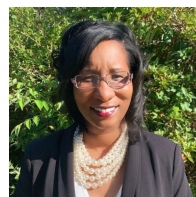
Allison Ross



Jesse McDaniel



Russ Williams



Monica Grace Mitchell



Jonathan M. (Matt) Cooper



Corey Evans

Vision & Programs

the Vision

We hear time and again about the importance of reaching children when they are young. We began with a belief that we can make the most impact on future generations by reinforcement of civic and character concepts in multiple grades. This year, our vision came to fruition.

We implemented programs in elementary through high school as the Citizen Promise Program was a huge success in select schools this year. The model of early-and-often touch points through graduation is working.



our Programs



Hands on Liberty Program (Grades K-2)

Students kick off an immersive 10-week civics & character program with a performance by Libby Liberty. Back in class, they are guided by The Hands on Learning video series and companion lesson plans that complement grade standards and engage students in learning crucial lessons at this early age. Teachers are trained, parents and community rallied to be part of this transformative process.



Super Citizen Program (Grades 3-5)

The Super Citizen Program begins with a rousing theatrical performance that excites students, stakeholders and local donors about the important lessons their students will begin after the Next Great Americans tour bus rolls away. After the show, students begin 9 weeks of in-depth lessons in civics, character, financial literacy, careers and more. Using their provided multimedia kit, and leveraging a life-changing service learning project, the students begin to understand their important roles in our country's future.



American Character Program (Grades 6-8)

A continuation of the stepping stones provided in K-5 programs, American Character provides more context for students by using the lives and accomplishments of great American characters who are models for what can be accomplished by any citizen. This is made even more tangible with mentor-led service learning projects that impact the community and mirror the kinds of change made by our historic leaders. Students learn more essential skills by presenting their projects to peers, press and parents at the #GoodCharacters Expo at the program's conclusion.



Citizen Promise (high school)

Equal parts career and essential skill preparation and civic-service activation, the Citizen Promise Program is implemented by exceptional schools wishing to continue the impact of the Super Citizen and American Character Programs as students ready themselves for careers and college. Students learn more in-depth lessons in civics, character, financial literacy and become accountable for their actions and trajectory of their own futures. Community mentors assist in the classroom, provide resume and job application bolstering opportunities and grants are available for graduating seniors.

IMPACT SINCE 2012



388,937

Students Impacted

Our K-12 suite of programs engage students in learning crucial lessons in civics, character, financial responsibility, career building and our Great American Story. Through grants and donations, Liberty Learning Foundation provides these free resource kits to teachers and orchestrates powerful live performances that increase understanding and retention of concepts.



499

Schools & Communities Impacted

Liberty Learning Foundation orchestrates Kickoffs, Celebrations, Expos, teacher training and volunteer coordination to make sure students have educational experiences they will never forget. In addition, the entire community is re-energized as students honor local heroes from the stage at graduation ceremonies. This all-hands-on-deck approach creates a culture of support, guidance and empowerment for hometown America's youth.



32%

Improvement In Test Scores

Pre- and post-program test scores generated through in-class online testing showed an average overall improvement of 32%.

- 32% for Hands on Liberty students (grades K-2)
- 43% for Super Citizen students (grades 3-5)
- 10% for American Character students (grades 6-8)



21,687

Classroom Resource Kits Provided

Teachers receive comprehensive resource kits at no cost, courtesy of donors and grants. LLF delivers the kits, trains teachers and works with volunteers to maximize program impact.



1,829

Kickoffs, Celebrations & Expos

LLF bookends its programs with energetic Kickoff, Celebration & Expo events. These set the tone for student and community engagement and allow our funding partners their much-deserved time in the spotlight as well.

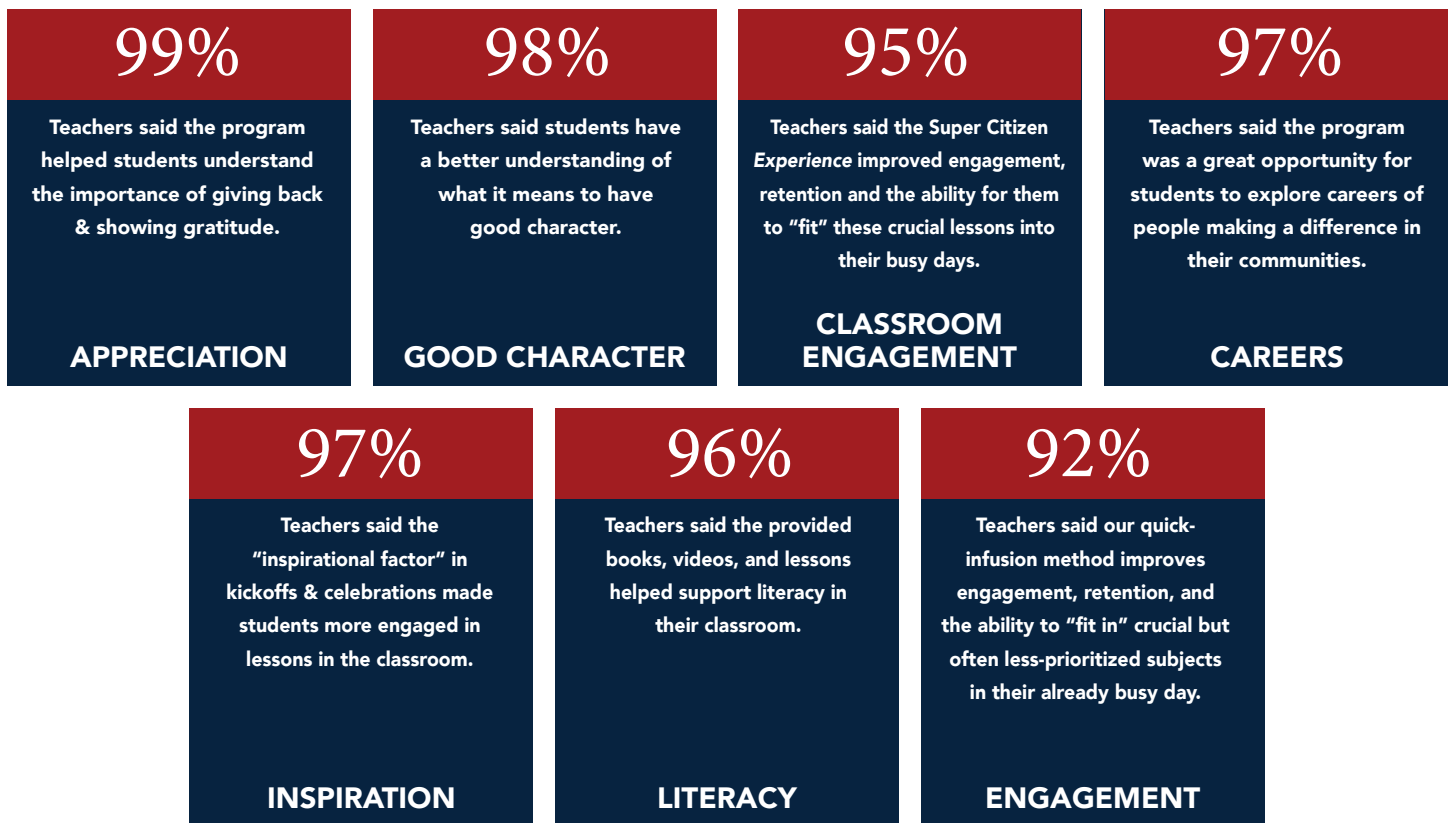


7,324

Local Heroes Honored

In the final Super Citizen Program unit, students turn learning into action by honoring local heroes from the stage. The motto of Torch Teams is: "When you honor a hero, you become a hero!" Each of our programs has its own age-appropriate equivalent to help bring lessons to life in the real world.

TEACHER SURVEY SHOWS STEADY (and impressive) STATS



LOOKING AHEAD:

Next year will see the foundation continuing its efforts to strengthen community alliances, identify partner-stakeholders, perfect our suite of K-12 programs, and serve current educators and students.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

2021-2022
Audited Contributions
& Expenses

Contributions:
\$1,572,394

Expenses:
Program Services:
\$1,409,868
Support Services:
\$221,485

Total expenses:
\$1,631,352

Net Assets:
\$153,709

2022-2023
Projected Contributions
& Expenses

Contributions:
\$1,810,000

Expenses:
\$1,805,613

Net Assets:
\$158,096

Fiscal Year 7/1/22 - 6/30/23

	Student Resources & Supplies	15%
	Outcomes & Measurements Tracking	5%
	Events (The "Experience")	20%
	Teacher Resources & Supplies	30%
	Program Development	15%
	Fund & Community Development	15%

100% → 

Administrative and overhead costs are funded by a generous donor. All donations go directly to providing Liberty Learning Foundation programs to Alabama schools.



LIBERTY
LEARNING FOUNDATION

LibertyLearning.org (800) 239-0005

A 501(c)3 organization serving schools and
communities throughout Alabama!